

# Statements of Position

Statements of Position clarify the Illinois PTA stand on certain timely and important issues. These positions are adopted from time to time at the state convention.

---

*PTAs must remember that children and youth should never be involved in any activity that might place them in an unsafe situation.*

---

## Academic Freedom

We believe that freedom to study, to learn, and to teach is essential to education in a democratic society. This freedom carries with it the responsibility to exercise judgment in its usage. Freedom does not imply license to impose social or political doctrines or personal and professional judgments regarding controversial issues on a student body.

We believe that while selection of instructional personnel and instructional materials is the responsibility of school boards and competent professional staff, parents should participate in the decision-making process. We further believe that every child has the right to all pertinent facts which are suitable to his level, through parents, teachers, textbooks, libraries and other educational media on every subject, including recognized scientific theory and unbiased political science, history, current international relations and current local issues.

The PTA believes that public education best serves a democratic society because public education is intended for all children and youth regardless of culture, religion, class and educational goals.

## Child Abuse

The Illinois PTA is concerned with all children and youth and their right to grow and develop in a healthy, safe environment. **ALL CHILDREN and YOUTH** are entitled to protection against all forms of abuse and neglect, cruelty, and exploitation.

## Fund Raising

The PTA, as an organization, has the responsibility of assuring that it has adequate funds through dues or fund raising projects to meet its needs. Funds raised by PTAs should be raised by the members of a PTA unit for the purposes defined in the budget

The National PTA has a long-standing position of disapproval of any project that involves children and youth in the collecting of money. Recognizing that local PTA units have fund raising projects, **the Illinois PTA believes that children and youth should not be used in fund raising projects in any manner that would cause them to solicit funds or sell items, including candy and food items, door to door or to persons unknown to them.** Fundraisers that can properly involve children and youth might include recreational activities (fun fairs, roller skating parties, cultural outings); in-school events (hot dog days, book fairs); or providing appropriate items for sale (tee shirts, jackets, school items imprinted with school name).

## Parental Responsibility

We believe that parental responsibility includes the responsibility to:

1. Love, accept and respect their children,
2. Provide an adequate and safe home environment,
3. Provide a morally healthy community environment,
4. Provide an adequate school system,
5. Supervise the reading and recreational activities of their children,
6. Encourage an appreciation of cultural arts,
7. Teach good citizenship by example.

We believe that through an expansion of parent education in all divisions of PTA, parents would become more knowledgeable of their children's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs. In accepting these responsibilities parents build healthy personalities in their children.

## Protests

We believe that verbal protests, petitions, and peaceful assemblies not designed to interfere with the operation of public institutions are in the best tradition and may be used to call attention to inequities and injustices.

We further believe that an adequate process must exist or be developed whereby students, teachers, administrators, parents, policy making boards, and other citizens may communicate freely so that constructive thinking of all parties may be expressed and considered.

Since nothing is more important than that the education of children and youth continue without interruption and without disruptive conflict, we believe that no unauthorized individual or group has the right to cause the closing of schools or jeopardize the safety of students, teachers, or school property.

We believe that during work stoppage or strikes by educational personnel, the PTA should act as a source of information, maintain its position as advocates for children and youth, and urge educational personnel to return to work assignments while continuing negotiations.

## Teacher Training

We believe continued recruitment of teachers for the public schools is necessary. We encourage high school counselors to give positive advice to students who have expressed interest in the teaching profession.

We urge the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education for the state, and institutions of higher education to continue and improve teacher-training programs, relying on counseling and the operation of the free market to guide students into careers where their services are most needed.